

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 12-15, 22 and 23 remain pending in this application. Claims 13, 15 and 23 have been amended in response to Examiner's 35 USC 112 objection. Claims 1, 12 and 22 have been amended to further clarify the claims.

Claims 1-4, 12-15, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,471 (Swoboda) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,471,587 (Fernando). Applicant respectfully traverses.

According to the Examiner, Swoboda teaches an integrated circuit comprising at least three cooperating frequency domains having variable operating frequencies but does not teach or disclose a cross-over logic to interface with different frequency domains. The Examiner states that Fernando discloses an integrated circuit having a cross-over logic to allow integral fractional ratio frequency domain over cross-overs between more than one pair of frequency domains. The Examiner concludes that because Swoboda and Fernando both disclose an integrated circuit having plurality of frequency domains and Fernando discloses the limitations missing from Swoboda, the Swoboda system would be improved by allowing to implement multiple flexible clock domain interface and frequency domain cross-overs. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant argues that nowhere does Swoboda teach or disclose three domains where each domain operates at a different frequency. Rather, in Swoboda each domain 1213, 1215 and 1217 can have its clock individually selected while the other domain selections are locked (unchanged). The selection process is a synchronized transfer of control between JCLK and FCLK in each domain. See col. 16, lines 60-67. Swoboda further states that the support architectures utilize two different clocks to support their operations. The two clocks are the functional clock (FCLK) and the scan clock (JCLK). See col. 16, lines 42-44. Thus, in Swoboda, one domain can have a clock selected while the other domains have their clocks unchanged. There is no mention of the three domains each operating at different frequencies. Therefore, Swoboda fails to teach or disclose each of the three domains operating at different frequencies.

Therefore the combination of Swoboda and Fernando fails to teach or disclose that claimed in Claim 1. Furthermore, for the same reasons noted above with respect to Claim 1, Claims 2-4, 12-15, 22 and 23 are similarly distinguished over the Swoboda and Fernando references, alone or in combination.

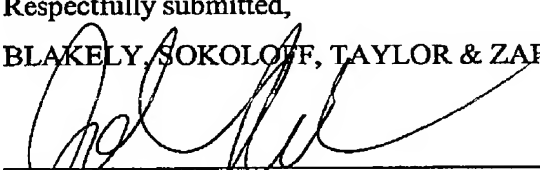
In summary, for the reasons noted above, Claims 1-4, 12-15, 22 and 23 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein, the applicable rejections and objections have been overcome. Favorable action is respectfully solicited. Allowance of the Claims is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: March 29, 2004


John Patrick Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

12400 Wilshire Blvd.
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8300